

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated January 24, 2005 an objection to the priority claim of the specification and pending claims 20-40 were rejected for alleged double patenting against Odinak et al. in U.S. Patent No. 6,487,494. In response, the priority claim is amended and the claims have been amended to more particularly point out and claim the invention.

PRIORITY CLAIM

Currently amended priority claim reflects that patent status of non-provisional application serial number 09/884,856 in accord with the Office Action requirement.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – DOUBLE PATENTING

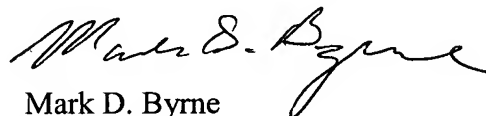
Claim 23 has been canceled. Independent claims 22, 27, 30, 35, 36, and 38-40 have been currently amended, and along with the previously presented dependent claims 24-26, 28-29, 31-34, and 37 that depend from their respective currently amended independent claims, applicants assert, are patentably distinguishable over U.S. Patent No. 6,487,494.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections, allowance of currently amended claims 22 and 24-40, to early passage and through issuance. If the Examiner has any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's agent listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

BLACK LOWE & GRAHAM^{PLLC}



Mark D. Byrne
Registration No. 50,125
Direct Dial: 206.957.2481

MAIL CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this communication is being deposited with the United States Postal Service via first class mail under 37 C.F.R. § 1.08 on the date indicated below addressed to: MAIL STOP FEE AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

May 24, 2005
Date of Deposit


Myla Kent